

So far tariff bids have been invited in respect of three projects, namely, Sasan in Madhya Pradesh, Mundra in Gujarat and Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

The development of projects at Tadri in Karnataka, Akaltara in Chhattisgarh and Girye in Maharashtra, is contingent upon the availability of requisite clearances and confirmation with regard to availability of land for the project by the State authorities.

Supply of free power to farmers

488. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANABHARTI A:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has compiled data of 6 SEBs which are offering free or subsidized power to consumers in agricultural sector;
- (b) if so, whether they are losing around Rs. 4,014 crore annually due to under-cost power supply scheme;
- (c) if so, whether the Centre has reiterated need for States to disconnect their free power policy and PM has said that free power concept was a big hurdle in efforts to improve the country's power supply;
- (d) if so, the steps his Ministry is considering to take in this regard; and
- (e) how many States have so far stopped this practice?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) At present four States *viz.*, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu are giving free supply of power to various categories of agriculture consumers.

(b) Section 65 of the Electricity Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commissions, the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensee the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy. The estimated annual expenditure of these States on subsidy is as under:

SI. No.	Name of State	(Rs. in crores)
		Amount of Subsidy
1.	Andhra Pradesh	912.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	208.04
3.	Punjab	1522.61
4.	Tamil Nadu	233.58

(c) and (d) Government of India has notified Tariff Policy under the provisions of the Act. The Policy states that extent of subsidy for different categories of consumers can be decided by the State Government keeping in view various relevant aspects. But provision of free electricity is not desirable as it encourages wasteful consumption of electricity besides, in most cases, lowering of water table in turn creating avoidable problem of water shortages for irrigation and drinking water for later generations.

(e) State Government of Maharashtra had introduced free electricity supply to farmers *w.e.f.* 01.07.2004 which it has withdrawn from 01.06.2005. Government of Madhya Pradesh has restricted it to the only SC/ST agriculture consumers with a connection upto 5 H.R Andhra Pradesh has also revised the scheme restricting it to only certain categories of consumers.

Shortfall in power supply

† 489. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether country has registered shortfall in power supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise with particular reference to Delhi and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the country and particularly in Delhi to make this loss good; and

(d) the quantum of power being generated by the States from their own resources as on date?